the santa clara valley

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people talking

It's happy birthday to me!

By MARY LESTER

HELLO. FOR THE first time, I'm going to pat myself on the back because I've been writing "people talking" for 52 weeks and I honestly don't know how I've managed to keep abreast of all the newsy items that are fit for print and yet haven't been in print until they hit my column. Covering Santa Clara County is a "mammouth" assignment for a "gossip" columnist who does it alone and has to continually convince contacts that items which have already appeared in the papers cannot be used, and neither can most press releases because the SUN paper chain is weekly and stale news is a special no-no. Remarkably, there have only been a total of three items that beat my release. And, numerous news scoops have been reported here; sometimes weeks before anyone else ran them.

The original idea for the column, as suggested by my boss, Mort Levine, was to cover as many facets of life in the county as possible; consequently, my "beat" has been sports, politics, everyday-living, schools, art world, business, human interest vignetttes and just plain personality tidbits. All items, though, have one important ingredient: they are newsworthy. And, that's what "people talking" is all about.

In my writing, I have purposely tried not to hurt anyone because there is no justification for that and I am not of a spiteful nature. There were many "juicy" items I could have run but did not because of their nature or the harm they might do to others involved. Then there were some that were terribly amusing but bordering on the obscene. Oh yes, it can be fun and fulfilling as well as frustrating and very tiring to write a "people" column, but one of the prizes is getting to meet, albeit by phone, hundreds of different individuals from various backgrounds and becoming friends.

I especially wish to thank each of you who has provided me with notes for these columns and please continue. I need you! And, I thought you all might enjoy re-reading some of the items that have appeared since April 6, 1977.

FIRSTS: A major wildlife refuge environmental center will soon be located by the federal government over an area of 23,000 acres in Santa Clara-Alameda counties. Headquarters will be in Fremont at Coyote Point (6-8-77) . . . World renowned Met mezzo-soprano **Irene Dalis** readily admits she is seeking investors and interested parties to help start a San Jose Opera Company (5-4-77) . . . KRON-Ch. 4 anchorman, **Fred La Cosse**, will be working full time in the Santa Clara county area when that channel starts with live TV in the South Bay starting Oct. 1 (8-24-77) . .

In January, a new seat on the Municipal Court in the San Jose-Milpitas District of Santa Clara County was created and it is now ready to be filled. More than rumor has it that the man who will be wearing the new black robes will be attorney **Steven Manley**, executive director for the county's Community Legal Services (6-1-77) . . . That pearl of an instructor De Anza College has nabbed to kick-off their four-part Seminar Lecture Series 90 this coming fall is none other than **Pearl Bailey** herself. The class will find "Pearly baby" foregoing song and dance routines and instead lecturing on the state of American arts like theater, film and musical comedy (6-1-77) . . . Wrestling is coming to the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. It's all because the San Jose Civic Auditorium is closing for renovation. Hence, the South Bay Wrestling Club picked the fairgrounds with the first bouts to get started by mid-Feb. 1-18-78) . . .

Sallie Morton, gemologist in Town and Country Village, San Jose, has just been elected President of the American Gem Society of the whole United States (5-18-77) . . . This honorable man isn't just coming to dinner, I'll have you know, but for the whole spring semester at University of Santa Clarta. The gentleman is **Simon Agranat**, retired president of the Israeli Supreme Court in Jerusalem, who will be teaching a seminar program on the Israeli Legal System and also another course on Comparative Criminal Procedures (12-28-77) . . . San Jose is getting its very own stamp even though it will say "First Civil Settlement, Alta California, 1777." It's on account of the Bicentennial of that city (5-24-77) . . . Looks like freelance Chicago-based actress, song-and-dance girl, blonde **Ann Fraser**, is top contender to replace **Kathryn Crosby** on the morning Ch. 5 show (5-4-77) . . .

AND SOME HUMOR: It was obviously not an English-bred camel that **Diana Hind** recently had a masterful confrontation with in Cairo. Diana, wife of Los Altos businessman **Harry Hind**, just couldn't resist a ride over the Sahara offered by a fast-talking Arab camel-master and so, it turned out, she got a speedy camel. In fact, when said dromedary was exceeding the 55-mile California limit, the only outlet for Diana seemed to be to post. Which she did, and was able to ride out the desert roller-coaster by reining the camel into a final stop. The camel-keeper couldn't quite understand Diana's muddled words about: "Lawrence of Arabia can have it!" (4-4-77) . . . Surely, the best story of the week is a true one that took place an evening ago when two little 'ol ladies came into the coffee shop of the San Jose Hyatt House, ordered prime rib dinners and then handed the cashier a gift certificate from McDonald's that read "Dinner for one at best restaurant in town." Hastily, the night manager was summoned to answer the genteel ladies not so dumb question: "Well, isn't this the best restaurant in town?" An amused and diplomatic **Al Johnson** made everyone happy by proclaiming "You've just been our guest!" (5-11-77) . . . The most intriguing address has got to be that of the unofficial "mayor" of his town: **Bob Gross**. It's Mud Flats Refuge, Alviso. Just that and it really gets there. (4-6-77) . . . As if **Muffie Walsh** didn't have enough to worry about on the big Ming Quong fund raiser going smoothly, the electricity went off the other day in her Los Gatos home. By mid-morn, Muffie's toes were getting stiff from cold and when the general help man came to fix everything for holiday time, he couldn't even vacuum. To add to the frustration and Muffie's getting-more-testy-by-the-minute mood, husband **Edward** phones to inquire about the status of the game he'd shot and placed in the freezer. He hung up not understanding the tone of voice that could easily keep those birds frosted. Oh well, we all have our days (11-30-77) . . .

AND NOW I'VE got to go and get busy on notes for the next 52 columns. Thanks for reading them all!

affairs of state

Nuclear forces will probably meet in court

By FRED W. KLINE
Capitol News Service

NO SOONER HAD the State Energy Commission recommended to the legislature that the Sundesert nuclear plant proposal not be exempted from nuclear siting restrictions and lo, the state Senate voted to grant just such an exemption.

Neither action should have been a surprise to anyone.

For instance, it has been expected from the beginning that the State Energy Commission, filled with appointees of Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr., would not allow any new nuclear energy plant sitings in California, not to mention Sundesert.

Nevertheless, the whole farce of public hearings and studies were conducted by the commission and its staff. That unit even contracted with the Sierra Club for a study on alternatives to nuclear power sources.

IF THAT WEREN'T enough of a clue as to how things were going for the San Diego Gas and Electric and other Sundesert principles, there were public statements from Energy Commission Chairman Richard Maullin, Brown and others as to their feeling about nuclear energy — all decidedly negative.

So, when the commission ruled against the $3 billion project, on which more than $100 million has already been spent, it was no surprise.

All the time that fiasco was going on, however, the stage was being set for legislative action to exempt Sundesert from the nuclear plant siting restrictions contained in a law adopted by the legislature in 1976. A bill was moving through the legislative committee framework all along.

The Brown Administration knew this and also knew that a showdown was going to happen sooner or later.

By ruling against Sundesert, the Energy Commission made the confrontation occur sooner. Within 24 hours, the Senate, following the lead of Sen. Newton R. Russell, R-Glendale, had voted to allow the exemption, and the Assembly may follow suit soon, although the vote will be close.

THE REACTION of the governor's office to the Senate action was curious. Gray Davis, Brown's chief of staff, chastised the Senate for its action, as did the governor. Davis even went so far as to say that SDG & E and others had had "their day in court."

If so, it was a kangaroo court, stacked against any chance for approval of nuclear plants in California, so Davis was merely mouthing self-serving statements for his boss and his expected campaign for re-election.

There are a lot of votes in Southern California, and Sundesert advocates say there is no guarantee there will be enough electric energy for Southland homes by 1985 without that plant.

To complicate matters, the federal government moved into the picture when the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a draft environmental report giving a green light to the Sundesert project.

This report, according to a statement from SDG & E, contains a summary of conclusions saying that the issuance of construction permits for Sundesert should be allowed on the basis of the analysis and evaluation, which includes environmental, economic, technical and other benefits and costs.

THIS MEANS, of course, that the Brown Adminstration in Sacramento is at odds with the Carter Administration in Washington over the desirability of nuclear energy. Brown considers nuclear energy as only a very last resort. Carter apparently feels that nuclear power may be required if the country is to be energy self-sufficient.

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getaways

Steam through history in Roaring Camp

By DONNA LEE DOWDNEY

WITH A WHOOSH of steam and a high-pitched whistle, a boiling giant rounds the bend. We're in Roaring Camp, near Felton, California, ready for a ride through history with our tickets in hand.

The train stops and the conductor shouts, "All-Aboard!" Most of the passenger cars are open, except for the caboose, of course. The children are full of questions as they begin to get a feeling for what life was like in great-grandfather's day.

We lurch forward. The Tuolumne Heisler is on its way to the top of Bear Mountain. This 37-ton locomotive was built in 1899, and has chugged more than a million miles through California's Sierra Nevada Range. First, the Hetch-Hetchey and Yosemite Valley Railway used the engine. Later, loggers of the Old West Side Lumber Company used it to pull their trains.

As the train circles the valley floor, it passes the "Little Green Schoolhouse." It is one of the only one-room schoolhouses still in use in the United States.

Then we leave the warm sunshine and enter the cool depths of the redwood forest. The clicking of the tracks beneath and the sounds of the echoing whistle ahead add to the excitement as we re-trace the tracks of history to our destination.

THE ENGINEER, Norman Clark, is also the president of the Roaring Camp and Big Trees Narrow-Gauge Railroad. At the throttle of Engine # 2, Clark guides the Tuolumne Heisler up steep, winding mountain grades.

Clark chose the name "Roaring Camp" for the 179 acres 30 miles south of San Jose from Bret Harte's famous story, "The Luck of Roaring Camp." He said he feels that the name accurately expresses the history of the Felton area.

Soon we encounter a spectacular, but brief, look down at the valley floor through the redwoods from 200 feet above. Looking at Graham Hill Road below, time turns to the 1830s when Isaac Graham, fur-trapping nephew of Daniel Boone, established a community here. Rough-and-ready mountain men and pioneers settled the Big Trees area and built the first whiskey distillery in the West. Graham built the first power sawmill west of the Rockies, and one of the first western highways: Graham Hill Road.

After Isaac Graham died, loggers hankered for this choice land and its gigantic redwoods. They would have gotten the land, too, except for Joseph Welch, a rich San Francisco businessman who didn't want to see the big trees cut. He bought all 350 acres for only $6,000!

Narrow-gauge trains started rolling again in 1963. Today more than 100,000 people a year ride the narrow-gauge trains through the Big Trees. As you travel, you may meet groups from Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Arab countries and other distant places. President Norman Clark has exciting plans for the future of Roaring Camp. He wants to make it possible to get a sense of California's pioneer life between 1848-1888 by constructing typical facilities of that era.

AT THE TOP OF Bear Mountain, we locate an empty picnic table and unpack our lunch. Since trains arrive about an hour apart, riders can wait here, taking in the quietness of the forest and the scent of the laurel.

At last the boiling giant thunders into view and we race down Bear Mountain. The eerie whistle and the clatter on the rails bring the afternoon's excursion to an end. We have returned from our journey steaming through the history of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

THE LOGGERS DIDN'T give up, though. In 1869, they surveyed a railroad line to 100 feet beyond the Welch property. Welch opposed the railroad, since a right-of-way would go through his grove of Big Trees.

Legal hassles delayed construction for five years, but finally the California legislature gave a charter to the Santa Cruz and Felton Railroad Company. The following year the first passenger train steamed the six miles from Santa Cruz to Felton. But when Welch saw the tourist potential of his redwood grove, he decided to open it and charge admission — 25¢ per person.

By 1880, the three-foot gauge railroad from Felton crossed the Santa Cruz Mountains to San Jose. Then it traveled eastward along San Francisco Bay to Oakland and Alameda. During the next decades, so many people rode the steam trains down to the Big Trees that people affectionately called the railroad, the "Picnic Line."

NORMAN CLARK is president of the Roaring Camp and Big Trees Narrow-Gauge Railroad and engineer for this trip.

Passengers included President Benjamin Harrison and Theodore Roosevelt, and the Hawaiian King, Kalakaua. At the peak of narrow-gauge operations, a dozen steam trains stopped at Felton and Roaring Camp every day.

BY 1906, the Southern Pacific Railroad had converted the narrow-gauge track to standard gauge (4'8½" wide). It scheduled the first standard-gauge train to run on April 18, 1906. At 5:12 that morning, the great San Francisco Earthquake shook Northern California, collapsing the railroad's tunnels. Nevertheless, by 1907 the railroad was again running between San Francisco and the Big Trees.

By 1935, people weren't using the trains as much as before. Then a severe winter storm washed out the tracks across the Santa Cruz Mountains. Since no one could use the mainline to the Bay Area, the Santa Cruz to Felton Railroad became an isolated branchline. The tracks were silent.

Narrow-gauge trains started rolling again in 1963. Today more than 100,000 people a year ride the narrow-gauge trains through the Big Trees.

TRAIN SCHEDULE

On weekends, the train leaves at noon, 1:30 and 3 p.m. and Monday through Friday it leaves at 12:15 p.m. This schedule is valid through April.

RATES

For adults, the cost is $4.50, ages 3-15 cost $2.50 and children under three are free. For group rates or additional information, call (408) 335-4484.

the investor

Stable Ginny Mae backed by government

By ALAN LERTZMAN

MANY investors require investments that are very safe and provide a stable monthly income. An investment which has these characteristics is GNMA Pass-throughs. They are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States government.

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GNMA stands for Government National Mortgage Association. The Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 set up GNMA to attract new funds into housing by appealing to a broader spectrum of the investment community than traditional mortgage investors.

Certain GNMA mortgage-backed securities of "Ginnie Mae pass-throughs" as they are popularly known, represent a share in a pool of Federal Housing Administration (FHA) or Veterans Administration (VA) single or multi-family mortgages. They are issued by an FHA-approved mortgage and guaranteed as to payment of principal and interest by GNMA. Since this guarantee is backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, there is high quality in this investment.

Current interest rates range from 8 percent to 8½ percent depending on whether the investor purchases the certificates or GNMA Trust Funds.

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1. A dependable monthly cash flow from interest and amortization.
2. A guarantee backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government that makes Ginnie Mae securities eligible as collateral to meet the requirements of banks and savings and loan associations.

I HAVE frequently stressed in this column the need for financial planning. Keep in mind that the first step is a savings account. Perhaps you should become better acquainted with "Ginnie Mae." A booklet further explaining GNMA is available upon request.

Readers may send questions and comments to: Alan Lertzman, P.O. Box 395, Los Altos, 94022.

penny pinchers

Freezing leftovers is a super saver for two

By SHIRLEY TALLMAN

Dear Shirley,

Just read your article about cooking for two. My husband and I have been trying to manage on a small pension ever since our retirement six years ago.

You're right when you tell your readers to freeze leftovers for another meal. This is a good way to stretch the budget.

To save money, I often cook a whole chicken (pre-cut ones are always much more expensive), and when we're finished with the first meal I do three things: First, I cut a few slices for lunch, (to become either sandwiches or chicken salad), Second, I dice enough chicken for a chicken pot pie, (which I freeze for later), and lastly, anything left (including the carcass), becomes the next night's chicken noodle or rice soup.

I've also found that leftover fish dishes taste wonderful in cream sauce over rice, or curried in a sauce over noodles or rice. Many times we just dice leftover meat or fish in a cream sauce and serve over toast. So simple!

Thank you for spending some time on economizing for two. When you're retired, you have to be very careful.

Mrs. Robert Crowell
Cupertino

Thank you, Mrs. Crowell, for sharing your ideas. There's nothing like necessity for creating new ways to pinch pennies. You certainly get your money's worth on that chicken!

Other good ways we've found for using leftover chicken is in Shepherd's Pie (with creamy mashed potatoes on top), or in a casserole with luscious browned dumplings on top. Incidentally, these dumplings also go great over last week's recipe for Vegetable Stew. After the vegetables are steamed, but not too well done, simply place them in a buttered casserole dish and cover with dumplings. They're ready for the oven.

DUMPLINGS

1 cup sifted flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
just under 1 tablespoon margarine (or shortening)
⅓ cup milk
dash of chopped parsley (if desired)

Sift together dry ingredients. Cut in margarine as for pie crust. Add milk and mix until soft dough forms. Drop by spoonfuls onto top of stew in casserole. (If you dip your sppon into the hot gravy between each dip into the batter it will prevent the batter from sticking.) Place, uncovered, in oven pre-heated to 450° and cook until nice and brown, (about 10-12 minutes.)

This will make about five to six dumplings, or plenty for two people. For a larger family, double the recipe.

If you would like a free recipe for Vegetable Stew, please write to me in care of Penny Pinchers, P.O. Box 829, Milpitas, 95035, and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Dear Shirley,

About your column on March 15 on economizing for two. Since my husband and I both work, too, I always like to have two or three emergency dinners in the freezer for nights when I'm too tired to cook or when we have unexpected company. I've also found that these 'freeze ahead' dinners save money, too!

Whenever I plan to cook a casserole, I try to make two, one for the freezer. I've figured that I get the second casserole for about half the price of the first.

Another idea we like (can't remember where I read this), is to slice and freeze leftover meatloaf, (I separate each slice with at least two thicknesses of wax paper). Then, when I need a quick dinner, I arrange the slices on a cookie sheet and spread with chili sauce. Then I sprinkle with grated cheese (we like cheddar but Jack might be nice), and broil them until the cheese melts and the meat is hot. Really good and so easy!

What did the working wife do before the invention of the freezer?

Sincerely
Maggie Dwyer
San Jose

She did a lot more cooking! I'm with you, bless the freezer! Thanks for the great ideas, Maggie. Your broiled meat loaf is fantastic!

Editor's note: Trying to raise a family on a budget? Shirley Tallman tries to help each week in her column. She welcomes comments and suggestions from readers. Send them to her at: P. O. Box 829, Milpitas, CA 95035.

LEAVE HOME?

'NOT FOREVER'

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diet corner

By ELISE GENDAR

SOLO NUTRITION can be dangerous nutrition. Live-alones may sometimes need outside interference from inquiring daughters, nieces, and sons — not to mention neighbors, grandchildren, etc.

Live-alones live with television. They watch the ads, and often then buy the products: the ones that are the sugar-coated nothings, the cakes that stir up from mixes so easily, the flapjacks and the muffins and the easily-thawed, glopped up goodies that contain nothing but sweetness to fill a stomach.

I am not talking about the dedicated, with-it young careerists who are flying solo for the first time in their lives. They'll survive because most of them are figure conscious — hopefully making them nutrition conscious as well.

I'm addressing myself to the Social Security Set — the ones who have to live alone, hate it, and find their worlds are constricting while their waistlines are expanding.

The problem is compounded for them by the dual challenges of economy. Money and convenience. The filling, sweet foods seem cheaper and they are a lot easier. There's no thrill in cooking for just one person. "Too much fuss," as the mother of a friend put it.

So when YOU are the interested outsider, your first job is to convince your soloist that he or she is important enough to "fuss" over. Your second job is to make practical suggestions. Many times the effort involved in doing "a little more" is just that — a little more. For example, a solo citizen map slap a cube steak in a frying pan. A little extra effort would produce this broiled beauty with a tangy taste.

MARINATED GINGER STEAK

1 small round steak (8 oz.)
2/3 cup low calorie ginger ale
tenderizing salt

Follow directions on tenderizing salt. Marinate in ginger ale. Broil to taste, basting in gingerale.

My suggestion is a nutrition talk between your and your favorite older person. Point out the need for dairy products — calcium is needed to replace the depletion of the years.

Stress the protein requirements of good diet — and that they can be bought reasonably in chicken, eggs and cheese. Revive an interest in fruits and vegetables by toting along a basket of these goodies. Most of all, convince the person you must convince that nutrition is best learned from the many good books and articles on the subject, not on the ads peppered through the television day.

For everyone who works and would like a copy of low calorie LUNCHES THAT TRAVEL send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Elise Gendar, area director, The Diet Workshop, 2533 Taraval st., San Francisco, 94116.

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Is it an awkward alliance between politics, media?

POPULAR CULTURE
COURSES BY NEWSPAPER

By ANDREW HACKER

Editor's Note: This is the 11th in a series of 15 articles exploring "Popular Culture: Mirror of American Life." In this article, Andrew Hacker, professor of government at Queens College of the City University of New York, discusses how politics has been portrayed in the mass media and how television has affected the political process. This series was written for Courses by Newspaper, a program developed by University Extension, University of California, San Diego, and funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

LIKE MANY OTHER movies dealing with politics, this film, starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman, emphasizes that corruption is often at the center of political power.

THE COMBINATION of politics and popular culture makes for an awkward alliance.

Images arise of candidates emulating entertainers, of campaigns reported as athletic contests, and of platforms with the appeal and veneer of commercials.

However, politics still deals with complex and consequential issues, which deserve to be taken seriously. Candidates should be judged on their character and competence, not as coached or photogenic "personalities."

Popular culture, in contrast, is meant mainly for relaxation. Thus political issues are simplified, often to suit the media's modes of presentation. In like manner, politicians tend to be judged by how well they come across as public performers.

THERE IS, of course, no shortage of purely fictional performances dealing with political themes. Every season comes up with a quota of TV scripts and series devoted to politics. While these treatments run the range from farce to tragedy, they share at least one denominator: they avoid controversial issues that might offend substantial segments of their audiences.

Most Americans still feel deeply about issues carrying political overtones. (There is less apathy than appearances often suggest.) Hence the risk of arousing resentments if issues seem unfairly presented. Indeed, there are many questions people would rather leave unraised. Like how equitably we distribute the nation's income; or the public's responsibility for Watergate and Vietnam.

So on the whole the media stick to "safe" political subjects, or ones in which the audience itself comes out clean. Perhaps the most recurrent of these is corruption. At least everyone is against it.

The triumph of virtue

VIRTUE CAN, of course, triumph over corruption, as it did in Frank Capra's fabled "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" (1939), where a naive U.S. senator wins out over his cynical seniors — as it happens, by mobilizing some boy scout troops. The more solemn movies like "Advise and Consent" (1962) and "The Best Man" (1964) also showed the victory of principle, if by some skewed casting of the villain.

A reverse approach has politics corrupting innocence. For example, "All the King's Men" (1949), based on Robert Penn Warren's prize-winning novel, turns a rural idealist into a populist despot.

A more "Modern" portrayal came with Robert Redford's performance as "The Candidate" (1972). Here the central figure was a young, public service lawyer from a comfortable, middle-class background, impelled into politics by his concern for the plight of the poor. However, the "system" gradually seduces him. Media experts persuade him to reduce his messages to 30-second spots; interest groups exact concessions in return for contributions and endorsements.

Bit by bit he learns to live with these "realities," which the script implies are inevitable. (It even adds infidelity with an attractive campaign worker, presumably par for the political course.) Having the hero from suburban surroundings suggests that even well-meaning liberals must suffer a loss of innocence — and integrity.

Television, the most "mass" of the media, tends to skirt politics at its edges. Soap operas and situation comedies introduce issues — abortion, crime, race prejudice — but they either keep on a plane of interpersonal relations or attack offstage targets. Politicians come across as stock characters: crooks or buffoons or cynics. We turn on TV to unwind, not to ponder the state of the nation.

Popular protests

IN MARKED contrast, popular music has become a format for political expression, especially to younger audiences. Artists like the Beatles in the early 1960s, and Bob Dylan and Joan Baez amid the civil rights and Vietnam protests, offered subtle indictments of their society. Even today, popular performers such as James Taylor and Carole King show an America so gripped by materialism and amorality that political participation is futile. It may well be that all those stridently amplified stereos are the "radical" demonstrations of our era.

Moreover, politicians are attacked by both liberal and conservative cartoonists every day on the editorial pages of our nation's newspapers. And Trudeau's purely political comic strip, "Donnesbury," won a Pulitzer prize.

Thus via scripts, songs, cartoons, and scenarios, politics has found a place in our popular culture. But what of the reverse relationship: the impact of entertainment on the world of politics?

In simpler days, politicians crossed the country by railroad, pausing at whistle-stops and shaking hands at county fairs. Newpaper reports came in leisurely, gray-columned lengths, which were in turn discussed in general stores and city cafes. Citizens knew candidates firsthand, and issues hit close to home.

Were things really that way? Fact and fancy often get entangled. Even so, we do know that voting reached its all-time highs in the 1890s and has been on a downswing ever since.

Campaign by media

IT HAS BECOME commonplace to observe that people have little firsthand experience of politics. "A modern campaign is conducted nearly wholly in the press, especially on televison," says Jann Wenner, editor of Rolling Stone. "There is the so-called news, which is at least half contrived, controlled events; and there is advertising, wholly contrived and unashamed propaganda."

According to this analysis, the mode of presentation decides what will be seen. Televised news requires theatrical on-some-spot settings. Better, therefore, to carry cameras to a vandalized, half-finished housing project than have an economist explore prevailing paradoxes in interest rates.

Indeed, problems which defy easy depiction may get no mention at all. Much the same can be said of the spot advertising used by candidates during elections. (Or can we say that watching an aspirant walking pensively on a beach gives an underlying clue to his character?)

The great debates

THE CONCLUSION in many quarters is that the best way to attract an audience is by adding the dramaturgy of debate. This strategy apparently succeeded, both in 1960 and 1976, when the Kennedy-Nixon and Ford-Carter encounters broke records for political broadcasts.

Actually, they were less "debates" than two-person press conferences, responding to panels of reporters. At the same time, voters apparently felt they had gained added insight on the contenders, particularly in their composure under pressure. Still, subsequent discussions dwelled more on "who won?" than with the substantive content of the presentations.

Is it the main interest of the media to make politics a spectator sport: a sort of stretched-out counterpart of the Super Bowl? The primaries can be seen as weekly episodes of a serial. Polls measure the nation's mind, finding enough "don't knows" and "undecideds" to keep even one-sided contests alive. We "watch" a campaign as if it were an event created for an audience, rather than a process whose very core is personal participation.

THUS MANY ARGUE that by merging politics with popular culture, appearances win out over reality and the media constrain the message. Yet the critics are not agreed on the culprit. Some blame the top decision-makers of the media, saying they impose their preferences on the public. Others claim that the communicators are simply responding to a citizenry that wants its news and views in capsules.

Yet it is possible to suggest that Americans are still political creatures, with ideas and interests of their own. Even at a distance they can size up the stature of a candidate and see the issues at stake in an election. Citizens certainly make mistakes and can succumb to alluring but misleading presentations. But it seldom happens when the outcome really counts.

"Voters are not fools," was the way a political scientist once put it. Indeed, it can be argued that exposure to modern media has heightened our sophistication. If that is so, we have a more acute political understanding and seek a politics that will meet our expectations.

About the author

ANDREW HACKER is professor of political science at Queens College of the City University of New York, having previously taught for many years at Cornell University. A frequent contributor to scholarly journals and to such popular periodicals as "The New York Times Magazine," "Harper's" and "The National Review," he is the author of five books, including "The End of the American Era" and "The New Yorkers."

Learn to save life in CPR course

You can learn how to save the life of a heart attack victim in three easy lessons. Mission College is offering a cardiopulmonary resuscitation course on Mondays and Saturdays now through June 12.

Students may enroll in the Monday class, held from 1 to 4 p.m., or on Saturday, April 15, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. It typically takes a student nine to 12 hours to complete the course, which is offered on a self-paced method, enabling the student to attend at convenient times.

The course is designed to provide basic Red Cross Certified CPR training or to provide a refresher course for recertification.

Registration, orientation, skills practice and checkout will take place in the classroom lab, MB 23, at Mission College during any of the above times.

Enrollment is limited, so those interested in enrolling should contact the college's allied health office, 985-0425, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

consumers corner

It's legal, but confusing to average person

In 1976, I signed an IRA contract through the Giffen Investment Service in Santa Clara. The IRA contract is with the Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Company and they have been sending me statements twice each year. Upon receipt of their last statement, I was surprised to learn that after purchase payments of $1,575 the accumulated value was only $966.37. When I inquired about the reason for this, I was told that the "load" for the first year was 80 per cent, the second year 10 per cent and 6 per cent thereafter. The administration fees so far are $550 on a $1,575 contract (copy enclosed) and wonder if anything can be done?

Yvonne Helsinger
Santa Clara

Our lawyers tell us that your contract is a legal one but not readily understandable to the average person, somewhat of the same nature as an income tax form.

An IRA account (Individual Retirement Annuity) can be administrated through your bank or savings and loan company for free or very minimal charges. We suggest that you transfer your account immediately and watch out for any "closure" or "transfer" charges.

It's our intent to contact local legislators and to draft a law prohibiting the assessment of exhorbitant charges such as these.

We know that Consumers United handles hundreds of cases per week and are curious to know what the nature of the complaints are in order of frequency.

Mr. & Mrs. Johann Berstien
Cupertino

Auto repairs and maintenance lead the list with automatic transmission shops being the prime offenders. A close second is new or used car purchases within franchised dealerships with the independent used car lots and motor home dealers next on the list.

Apartment tenants are heard from at least 12 times per day with legitimate complaints and following them are people complaining about the broad spectrum of contractors in everything from new homes to pools to roofing.

Beyond this we receive and process complaints on false advertising, carpet sales, general merchandise (unsatisfactory) and every service that can be imagined.

Our fairly new (1976) Dodge Colt had a problem with a rusted out gas tank. Since it happened after the warranty, the dealer and the zone rep for Chrysler wouldn't contribute anything toward the repairs.

The car gave us trouble for 18 months before we found out what the problem was. Small bits of rust would clog the gas filter and the car would stall, often on the freeway. The dealer would replace the filter but never let us know the root cause of the problem. Copies of 11 repair orders are enclosed. Is this a common problem with the Colt?

Freeman Collins
San Jose

We have heard of several of these cases and would like to solicit more information on the subject. You have a good chance of recovery of the money spent on the filter replacement jobs ($234, total) and the $173.20 spent on gas tank replacement.

It appears that a well defined product liability is involved and the small claims court could be used to sort out the facts and gain restitution.

What's your opinion of the V.W. Rabbit with the diesel engine? Is it as good as the advertisements say and what about the over 50 m.p.g.?

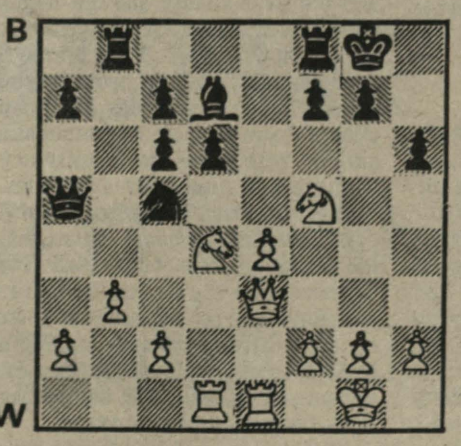
Millie Shoenhorst
Los Gatos

We were given one to try for a two week period and found it gave 54 m.p.g. on the highway and had very good handling and braking characteristics. However, it stank of raw diesel fuel and diesel exhaust and left a lot to be desired in the performance department. The engine is noisy, characteristic of diesels, and one does not find fuel on every street corner.

The high price charged for this car is not justified and it will take many years to write off the lower fuel costs and improved mileage as opposed to the high price of the vehicle.

Editor's note: This column is compiled for the SNPI newspapers by Slim Ingham. Consumers United is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the consumer. Readers seeking help or membership information may write to Consumer United, P. O. Box 311, Palo Alto 94302, phone 494-1858. For more immediate help with consumer-related complaints, call 245-7402, Monday through Friday, 3 to 7:30p.m.

chess challenge



PROBLEM No. 60: White to play and win.
Solution next week.

By JOHN SUMARES

Solution No. 59: 1. N-N6+, PxN 2. R-R4+mate.

One of the most prestigious tournaments in the world is taking place in Lone Pine, Ca. This is a premier event, in that it has the highest prize fund available for the most accomplished chess personalities in the world.

Tigran Petrosian, Lev Polugaevsky and Boris Spassky of Russia will be present among other greats such as Bent Larsen, Vladimir Hort and Walter Browne! John Sumares will also be there . . . as an observer. Information will follow in the next couple of columns.

Coming attractions being presented by the Santa Clara Chess Club should create a bit of interest, even to the casual chess fan. The first will be a speed chess match between international master George Kane and national master Harry Radke. Of the ten games, three will be analyzed for the spectators. This event will take place on April 19, 7 p.m., Rm. 3, at the Montgomery School, 890 Pepper Tree Lane, Santa Clara near Kaiser Hospital.

No chess enthusiast should miss the second attraction — "An Evening with George Koltanowski." An international figure of renown, Koltanowski will present a three hour show beginning at 7 p.m. at Buchser High School Auditorium, 3000 Benton St., Santa Clara on June 11. The show involves a great deal of audience participation along with some lecturing using a demonstration board, and story telling. The famous "knights tour" is an incredible feat of memory, also involving the audience. Tickets for adults are $3, students and seniors, $2. For information call 296-5392.

New play wins SJSU contest

The Theater Arts Department of San Jose State University has announced that Martin Helpern is the winner of the Second Annual Harold C. Crain Award in Playwriting.

For his entry, "No Moves Back," Dr. Helpern will receive a $500 award plus production of his play as part of the department's 1978-79 season.

The setting is a clearing in a city park, which could be any park in any city but no particular park anywhere. The story concerns two seventy-year-old widowers, both retired musicians, who engage in one of many chess games they have played over the course of a life-long friendship. Into the world of that game and that friendship intrude seven "passing acquaintances" who in varying ways affect their contrasting attitudes toward old age and the meaning of life and death — attitudes which throughout the play are depicted, sometimes humorously and sometimes with grim intensity, as a source of conflict between the two men.

Chamber music set at Stanford

A "Music from Marlboro" concert, featuring chamber music developed from the annual Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont, will be held in Dinkelspiel Auditorium at Stanford University. Members of the traveling Marlboro troupe to be presented in the April 16 concert are Stephanie Brown, piano, Daniel Phillips, violinist and violist, Peter Zazofsky, violinist and Marcy Rosen, cellist.

The concert is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. and tickets are $6, and $3 for students.

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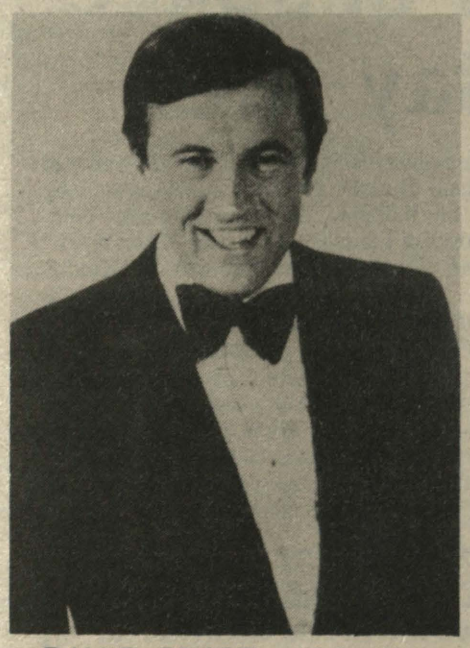
Marquee

Frost opens speaker series

DAVID FROST, Pauline Frederick, Richard Armour, and Jean-Michel Cousteau will headline the Foothill College Enrichment Seminars' popular Special Speakers Series on Thursday nights in April and May.



DAVID FROST will be the first speaker to appear in Flint Center for the Special Speakers Series of Foothill College.

All Special Speakers programs will be held at Flint Center on the De Anza College campus to accommodate larger audiences. All will begin at 8 p.m. and require advance registration (and payment of a $2 fee) through the Foothill Registrar's Office.

"Interviews I Shall Never Forget" will be the topic of David Frost's appearance on April 13. The Emmy Award-winning interviewer will share memorable moments with the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, with Nazi war criminals, with leaders of the Middle East, and with former President Richard Nixon.

On April 20, Pauline Frederick will discuss "World Affairs in Perspective. The international affairs analyst and producer of National Public Radio will give her views based on 21 years of United Nations and world affairs reporting for NBC and ABC.

"A Light Look at Life" will be appropriately discussed by Richard Armour, the author of more than 50 books, contributor of over 6,000 pieces of light verse and prose to leading magazines in the U.S. and England and writer of a weekly feature on April 27.

Jean-Michel Cousteau, son of Jacques Cousteau, will talk about "Project Ocean Search," a unique expedition to the South Pacific to study jungle marine life and coral reefs, on May 11.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN (James Coyle) tries to spin straw into gold as the miller's daughter looks on in the California Actors Theater Children's Theater production of the fairy tale. The play will be performed April 15, 22, 23 and 29.

Barrymore one-man show set for U. of Santa Clara

ACTOR-WRITER David M. Kwiat will present his one-man show "John Barrymore: Confessions of an Actor or Prelude to the Last Entrance" in the Louis B. Mayer Theater, Tuesday, April 18, at the University of Santa Clara.

The 4 p.m. performance is free and open to the public.

Kwiat's Barrymore portrayal was given last summer at the Edinburgh Festival and during the early fall at the King's Head Theater in London, where it was greeted with enthusiasm by the foreign press. B.B.C. called it "a brilliant, polished performance."

Kwiat, who is a guest actor-in-residence at SCU this spring quarter, spent more than two years sifting through background material and compiling anecdotes depicting Barrymore "as the rogue, rascal and royal prince of the theater." His research took him to the Lincoln Center of Performing Arts Library in New York and the Library of Congress Archives in Washington, D.C.

The setting for the one-man show is Jan. 20, 1940, in a dressing room at the Selwyn Theater in Chicago. Barrymore is preparing for his final performance of "My Dear Children," which he described as "an insubstantial bit of fluff." His interpretation of Hamlet in London 15 years before was regarded by many as the greatest of modern times. Kwiat's portrayal is of a man who extinguished his own genius at the height of his career.

Kwiat received the outstanding actor award in 1973 from the University of Minnesota, where he graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa.

S.F. Symphony to play at Flint

MUSIC DIRECTOR and conductor Edo de Waart returns to the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra this week after a ten-week break during which guest conductors took the podium.

De Waart, an avowed Mahler enthusiast who has been lauded on several continents for his interpretations of that composer's works, has programmed the Symphony No. 6 (The Tragic) for the first week of his return. A performance is set for Saturday, April 22 at the Flint Center for the Performing Arts in Cupertino at 8 p.m.

Since de Waart was last in San Francisco, he has been busy in Rotterdam with the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra of which he is also music director and conductor.

Tickets for the upcoming April 22 concert are available at the San Jose Box Office, the Flint Center Box Office and all major agencies.

rock waves

Weir far from Dead on new solo album

By MILES HURWITZ

THE LAST THING I expected from Bob Weir was a mundanely commercial, listless-yet-likable album. But with his recently released solo project, "Heaven Help The Fool" on Arista records, Weir seems as far away from the ever-progressing Grateful Dead (the context in which he is best known) as Marin is from L.A.

This record fits in well with the great mass of releases that the Southern California "music machine" produces every month. But once that shock is overcome, Weir's record stands up well in comparison to the other highly commercial releases of the industry. It doesn't stretch very much, but it does sound pleasant.

It seems obvious that Keith Olsen had a lot to do with the direction chosen. Olsen, who produced Fleetwood Mac's first multi-platinum success, was brought in as producer for the Grateful Dead's latest, "Terrapin Station," and Weir kept him on for this album. With the Dead, Olsen added a commercial flair, but the group's eccentricities were still prominently displayed.

BUT "HEAVEN Help The Fool" is too much just a collection of songs (some good, some not as developed) to get that excited about. However, when the tunes succeed, aided by Weir's astonishingly flexible vocals and Olsen's clean sound, the music delights and satisfies.

On "Bombs Away" and the title cut, Weir contrasts highly emotional lyrics with a relaxed, slow-rocking feel punctuated by quick crescendos and a smooth transition from Weir's crooning to his growl. In both these pieces, the fluid arrangements transport the listener through mood changes while never losing track of the hook.

"Easy to Slip," written by Little Feat's Kibbee and George, varies little from a melancholy groove, but is attractive enough to make this the most memorable cut on the album.

WHEN I HEARD that Al Green had produced himself for his latest album, I shuddered a bit. Green, while possessing a voice that coaxes chills with a magical ease, has been known to be occasionally self-indulgent on stage with both religious preaching and ponderous song arrangements that would drag on forever.

But Green is also known for singing with a magnificent restraint that mesmerizes the audience with hidden power. "The Belle Album" on Cream-Hi Records shows no signs of self-indulgence, and shines with understated potency.

Playing lead guitar (acoustic), writing his own material, and producing himself for the first time in seven years as a vocalist, Green has created an album that shimmers with joy. Without ever going overboard in announcing his attitude of celebration (as many gospel-based soul artists have done in the past), Green's songs use a variety of styles to express his love.

The simple pieces reflect influences ranging from religious hymns to country blues, but the instrumental balance (drums mixed forward/bass and rhythm guitar mixed down) and fiery yet reserved vocals that dominate each cut add a continuity that makes the album flow.

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Audubon Society schedules meeting

Research done by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory on the Farallon Islands will be the topic of this month's Audubon Society meeting.

Staff biologist Bob Stewart of the Point Reyes facility will be the speaker on April 19, starting about 8:15 p.m. after a short social time. Meetings of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society take place at the Palo Alto Baylands Interpretive Center, Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto.

Co-sponsored by the city of Palo Alto's Nature and Science Department, the meetings are open to the public free of charge.

The Sounds of Space to invade Bay Area

AS THE FILM "Star Wars" continues to shatter box office records, a new "Star Wars" phenomenon is taking shape in the nation's concert halls. Already many major American concert orchestras have added the sound track's symphonic score to their repertoire for the upcoming season.

Locally, this music will be featured together with a celestial laser display and multimedia light show at the "Sounds of Space" concerts on April 14 in San Jose, April 15 and 16 in Marin, and April 18 in Berkeley. The 100-piece Sounds of Space Symphony will perform under the baton of Hugo Rinaldi, and will be rehearsed by John Williams, the award-winning composer of the suites from both "Star Wars" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

The Sounds of Space concerts in the Bay Area are fund-raisers for the Marin Waldorf School of San Raphael, an alternative, private, non-profit school which is one of 175 worldwide that subscribe to the Waldorf approach to education as an art. Tickets are available at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts and all major agencies.

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theater/review

C.A.T. comic romp hides sane message

By GLENN LEBOWITZ

THEY'RE A CRAZY family.

Mom quit painting and turned to writing endless plays eight years ago when someone mistakenly delivered a typewriter to the house.

Dad makes fireworks in the basement. Ed prints revolutionary propaganda in the living room and distributes it in boxes of homemade candy. And Essie dances all day long.

George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart's "You Can't Take It With You" is an orgy of lunacy currently at California Actors Theater, Los Gatos. The 1937 Pulitzer Prize-winning play will be performed through April 23.

Although the humor is somewhat dated, "You Can't Take It With You" is a delightfully mad comic romp encasing a very sane message.

INDESCRIBABLE CONFUSION results when the zany Sycamore family collides with people from the "real" world.

The Sycamore ring leader, Grandpa Vanderhof, has done nothing during the last 36 years except practice darts, raise snakes, attend commencements at Columbia University and avoid paying income tax. He quit working because it wasn't fun.

"The world isn't crazy," Grandpa Vanderhof said, "just the people in it. Since you only live once, why bother doing a job that gives you indigestion? Why not do exactly as you want to do?" And that's exactly what he does.

The entire Sycamore family follows Grandpa's advice. Their happy non-conformist ways don't cause too much of a stir until Alice Sycamore falls in love with the son of a Wall Street executive.

Alice, the "normal" member of the Sycamore clan, loves her family but fears their odd lifestyle will destroy her budding romance.

WHEN THE straightlaced Kirby visits the Sycamores on the wrong night it seems as if the whole zoo goes nuts.

The play's humor is refreshing because it's funny without being destructive or degrading. Instead of knocking the characters or the audience, as so much of today's humor does, "You Can't Take It With You" glories in its own imaginative goofiness. This type of bouyant humor kept late 1930s' New Deal Americans laughing, momentarily transcending years of Depression pain.

As Grandpa Vanderhof, Harry Kersey, a veteran movie, television and stage performer, gives a low key portrayal that somehow makes all the craziness seem very sane and right. His relaxed, almost lazy stage manner made him seem as if he wasn't acting, but simply was Vanderhof.

Bette Besuner, Martin Ferrero and Tom Ramirez were wonderful as the dancing Essie, the dry witted, fireworks helper, Mr. DePinna, and the gluttonous, wild Russian dancing teacher, Boris Kelenkhov. Although these three C.A.T. regulars weren't in major roles they always seemed to get the largest laughs.

JOAN PIRKLE, AS Alice Sycamore, and Michael Keys-Hall, Tony DeFonte and Anita Birchenall, as the Kirby family, heightened the play's comic effect immensely with their portrayals of straightlaced, realistic people thrown into turmoil by their association with the wacky Sycamores.

Touch for Health demonstrations set

Touch for Health introduction lectures and demonstrations are scheduled to be given by instructor Katy Waite.

Touch for Health is a holistic health maintenance system designed to teach the layperson more responsibility for their own health.

There are lecture/demonstrations scheduled for April 14 from 8 to 10 p.m. at San Jose City College, Room 45 and April 28 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Radiant Life Center, 2840 S. Bascom Ave. in San Jose. The fee is $3. For more information, call 866-1621.

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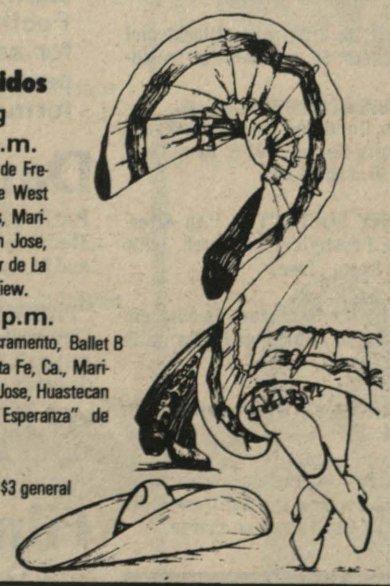

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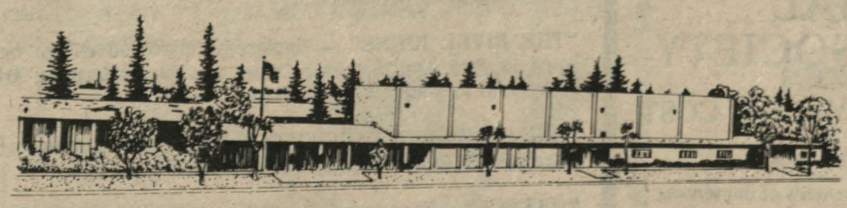

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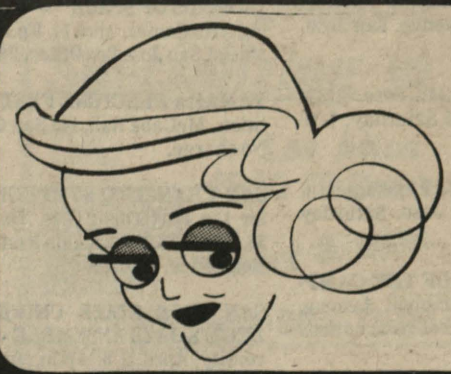

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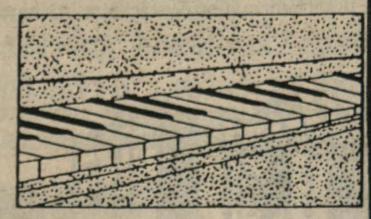

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calendar

Copy for calendar listing should be received by the Wednesday before publication date; send it to Wilma Albrecht, SNPI, P.O. Box 368, Cupertino, CA., 95014.

Theater

JOAN RIVERS SHOW — April 15, 8 p.m., San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets: $8.50, $9.50, and $12.50 available at the San Jose Box Office.

"MEDEA" — April 12, 13, 14, and 15, 8 p.m., Studio Theater, San Jose State University. Tickets: $3, general; $1.50, students and seniors, available by calling University Box Office, 277-2777.

DAVID M. KWIAT — Presents, his one-man show, "John Barrymore: Confessions of an Actor or Prelude to the Last Entrance," Louis B. Mayer Theater, University of Santa Clara, April 18, 4 p.m., free.

"THE MIKADO" — Opera A La Carte presents Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera, April 16, 7:30 p.m., San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets: $4, general; $2.50, students, available at West Valley Community College office, 44 E. Latimer Avenue, Campbell, San Jose Box Office, 2100 Moorpark Avenue, San Jose, 298-2181.

"THE FATAL DEED" — The Opry House of San Jose, 21350 Almaden Road, San Jose, Friday, 8:30 p.m., and Saturday, 7:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. For reservations call 268-2492.

"ANDROGEN" — And other works by the Synapse Experimental Theater, Studio 372, 372 South First Street, San Jose, Saturday nights, 7 p.m. Admission, $2.

"ORPHANS OF ALMADEN" or "THE BALLAD OF THE CAMPBELL KID" — Gaslighter Theater, 400 E. Campbell Avenue, Campbell, Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m. For ticket reservations call 378-9721.

"ANYTHING GOES" — Saratoga Drama Group, Saratoga Civic Theater, 13777 Fruitvale Avenue, Saratoga, April 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, and 22. Curtain times are 8:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday, and 7:30 p.m. on Sundays. For ticket information contact Mrs. Richard C. Ryan, 264-3110.

"PERFECT PITCH" — King Dodo Playhouse, 12378 Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road, Saratoga, April 14 and 15, 8:30 p.m. Tickets: $6 opening night, $4.50 regular, for reservations call 266-6060.

"THE FANTASTICKS" — Santa Clara Arena Theater, 3091 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, Friday and Saturday through May 13. Tickets: $3.50 and $2, for reservations call 296-SCAT.

"YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU" — California Actors Theater, Old Town, Los Gatos through April 23, Tickets: $4.75 through $8.75, available by calling Old Town Box Office, 354-6057, from noon every day except Monday.

Youth Theater

"RUMPELSTILTSKIN" — California Actors Theater, Old Town, Los Gatos, April 23, 1:30 and 4 p.m.; April 15, 22 and 29, 11 and 1:30 p.m. Tickets: $2, $3, and $4; for reservations call 354-6057.

Music

"SOUNDS OF SPACE" — Concert/Light Show, San Jose Performing Arts Center, April 14, 8 p.m. Tickets: $7.50 to $9, and $11, available at San Jose Box Office, 246-1160.

YAMAHA ELECTONE FESTIVAL — Organ performance competition, McCabe Hall, 145 San Carlos, San Jose, April 14, 7:30 p.m. No charge.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY — April 15, 8 p.m., Flint Center for the Performing Arts, De Anza College, Cupertino. Tickets: $9.75 and $8.50, available from Flint Box Office, 257-9555, San Jose Box Office, 246-1160.

SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY'S AND FOOTHILL COLLEGE'S JAZZ ENSEMBLE — Concert Hall, San Jose State University, April 13, 8:15 p.m., free.

ART GARFUNKEL IN CONCERT — April 12, 8 p.m., Flint Center, De Anza College, Cupertino, singing his hit songs of the past and those from his new album. Tickets: $6.50, $7.50, and $8.50, available at Ticketron, and Bass outlets, Flint Center and Foothill College Box Offices.

MUSIC FROM MARLBORO — April 16, 2:30 p.m., Dineklspiel Auditorium, Stanford University. Tickets: $6, available at Tresidder Ticket Office, 497-4317.

"ALL THAT JAZZ" — Magnolia Jazz Band and the Stanford Jazz Ensemble, April 14, 8 p.m., Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View. Tickets: $3.50 at the door.

LOS GATOS-SARATOGA SYMPHONY SOCIETY — "An Afternoon of Chamber Music," Westhope Presbyterian Church, 12850 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, April 16, 3 p.m., free.

DAVID KEITH, PIANIST — Works by Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Schumann and Stravinsky, April 16, 5 p.m., Carriage House, Villa Montalvo, Saratoga, Tickets: $3, at the door.

JIM BERTRAM — Guitarist, April 15, 8 p.m., Appreciation Hall, Foothill College, Los Altos Hills. Free.

CREATIVE MUSIC ENSEMBLE — Jazz concert, co-sponsored by WORKS, 248 Auzerais Avenue, San Jose, and the San Jose State University Music Department, April 16, 8 to 5 p.m., no charge.

PAT ARGO, a performer, instructor and choreographer of modern dance will present her home city with a one-woman show when she performs on April 15 at the Foothill College Auditorium. Tickets are $4 for adults and $3 for students at the 8 p.m. performance. Call 948-8844 for more information.

Dance

PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY — April 13 and 14, 8 p.m., Memorial Auditorium, Stanford University. Tickets: $6.50, $5.50, and $4.50, available at Tresidder Ticket Office, 497-4317.

"PATTERNS" — Modern dance concert, Louis B. Mayer Theater, University of Santa Clara, April 14 and 15, 8 p.m. Tickets: $2.50, general; $1.50, students and seniors, for reservations call weekdays between 1:30 and 6 p.m., 984-4015.

PAT ARGO — Foothill College Auditorium, April 15, 8 p.m. Tickets: $4, adults; $3, students, for reservations call 948-8844 or they will be available at the door.

Films

"THE CLOWNS" and "FREAKS" — Foothill College Theater, Los Altos Hills, April 14, 8:30 p.m. Tickets: $1, general; $.50, students and seniors, at the door.

"THE RIVER RHINE" — Explorama travel-adventure film, April 18, 8:15 p.m., San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets: $3.75, adults; $2.50, children.

"ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST" — Flint Center, De Anza College, Cupertino, April 14, 8 p.m. Admission: $1.

"GREECE" — Evergreen Valley College's Roble Cafeteria, April 16, 2:30 p.m.; main gym, San Jose City College, April 16, 7:30 p.m. Admission: $2.

Special Events

FIFTH ANNUAL SPRING WILDFLOWER DISPLAY — sponsored by the Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation, April 15 and 16, Villa Montalvo Arboretum, 15400 Montalvo Road, Saratoga, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day, Visitor Center. Free.

HYE-TIME '78 — I Am Hall, 655 Vaqueros Avenue, Sunnyvale, April 15, 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Armenian, Greek, Assyrian and Middle-Eastern music and dancing, to benefit Armenian Apostolic Church of Santa Clara Valley. Tickets: $5, adults; $3.50, 18 and under. Deli plate 9 to 11 p.m., $3.

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calendar

"UFOs — A MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR" — Planetarium, West Valley College, beginning April 14 through May 12, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: $.50, for reservations call 379-9415.

IKEBANA — Japanese floral arrangements created by students of Fusako Hoyrup, McCoy Adult Center, 576 Los Olivos Drive, Santa Clara, April 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; April 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Demonstrations April 22 and 23, 1:30 to 2 p.m.

FIFTH ANNUAL ART AND CRAFTS EXHIBIT — Benefiting the Crisis Child Care Program of Children's Home Society at their office, 1010 Ruff Drive, San Jose, April 15, 4 to 9 p.m. Tickets: $5, for more information call 293-8940.

"THE SPRING POETRY FESTIVAL" — K. Curtis Lyle, Flora Durham, and Gary Young, April 19, 8 to 10 p.m., San Jose Museum of Art, 110 S. Market Street, San Jose. Free.

JUDAISM THROUGH THE ARTS — A multi-faceted multi-media event, April 16, noon to 5 p.m., West Valley College Campus Center. Many crafts will be represented, on display and for sale. The Israeli Consulate is exhibiting collectible works of more than a dozen internationally acclaimed artists to represent the art of Israel. An assortment of foods will be sold at the event. No admission charge.

DE ANZA/FAIROAKS FAMILY DAY — April 16, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., De Anza College Sunnyvale Center, 725 N. Fairoaks Avenue, Sunnyvale. No admission charge. Special attraction: The Pickle Family Circus (8 performers and 4 musicians) in an hour long show, 2 to 3 p.m. There will also be: arts and crafts demonstrations, dancing, clowns, etc.

POETRY READINGS — Woodland Library, Los Altos, 1976 Grant Road, April 17, 7 p.m.

FLEA MARKET — Murdock School, 1188 Wunderlich, San Jose, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 15, to raise money for field trips.

on the mall

This is a service of MARQUEE to acquaint our readers to the free entertainment and other attractions at the various shopping centers in our valley. Listings may be called in to Wilma Albrecht, 255-7500 by noon, the Thursday before publication.

EASTRIDGE SHOPPING CENTER
Tully Road and Capitol Expressway, San Jose:

"Fix-Up Fever" Mini Clinics — In the Eastridge Grand Court, at 1 and 3 p.m.: April 10, "how to's" of wallpapering; April 11, "To Paint or to Remodel"; April 12, "Art for Your Home"; April 13, "Interior Color Design"; April 14, "Antiquing Techniques."

"Sounds of Spring" Concert Series — Eastridge Grand Court, April 17 through 21, 6 and 6:30 p.m. Performing groups: Metropolitan Adult Education Symphonic Band, Metropolitan Adult Education Big Band, Andrew Hill High School, Jazz Choir, Santa Teresa High School Concert Choir, and Oak Grove High School Vocal Jazz Ensemble.

MAYFIELD MALL
Alma and San Antonio Road, Mtn. View:

Iris Show — Hundreds of arrangements; plant care and growing information, April 15.

PRUNEYARD
Bascom Avenue at Campbell, Campbell:

Bruce & Lynette Mello — Minstrels who play seven different instruments, April 16, 1 to 3 p.m.

SAN PEDRO SQUARE
22 North Almaden Avenue, San Jose:

The Maynard Crosby Band — April 16, noon to 3 p.m.

VALLCO FASHION PARK
Highway 280 at Wolfe Road, Cupertino:

Tennis Clinic and Demonstrations — Co-sponsored with Amten Tennis Center, April 15, all day.

Art Rule and his Band — April 17, 8 p.m.

at the galleries

Our monthly "At the Galleries" listing will appear in our April 26 issue of the SUN magazine, covering art events through May. All material for this column must be received by noon, Thursday, April 20. Direct your new items to Wilma Albrecht, SUN magazine, 10950 N. Blaney Ave., Cupertino, 95014.

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OASIS — Menlo Park, 241 El Camino, 'O' burgers, beer, 11am-2am • 326-8896

the garret — Campbell–in the PruneYard, big screen TV, 11am-2am • 371-6505, live entertainment nightly

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the winetaster

There's excitement brewing in Napa Valley

By MARY LESTER

I HAVE JUST returned from a wonderful five day trip to Napa Valley where I thoroughly covered 13 wineries. It was the first time in a year that I was able to spend so much time in this internationally respected grape growing and wine making region. My sojourn was extremely informative, very interesting and some times fascinating.

Perhaps my best informal interview (and they were all informal) was with Louis Martini with whom I spent three hours just talking, reminiscing and tasting. Louis' wine background encompasses such a field of knowledge — wine persons, grapes, new styles of wines, marketing methods — that I could have spent the entire day becoming mesmerized with his wealth of first-hand material.

I became the first to sign the guest book at the new Grgich Hills Cellars in Rutherford when co-owner and winemaker Mike Grgich gave me a private tasting of his three unreleased wines, the first to come from the Cellars. Mike was formerly the winemaker for Chateau Montelina and it was his 1973 Chardonnay that took top honors at the fabled 1976 tasting in Paris.

THEN THERE WERE first time ever visits to Justin Franciscan Vineyards, Rutherford Hill Winery, Round Hill Cellars, and repeat visits with the winemakers and other key personnel at Inglenook, Hanns Kornell, Beaulieu, Domaine Chandon, Krug, Beringer's and Schramsberg.

My taste findings and reports on the wineries visited will be written about in the months to come. Many changes have taken place in the overall wine scene. Some wineries are noticeably reflecting the changes; others, on the surface anyway, seem to be unperturbed with the moving times. One fact for sure is that there is excitment in Napa Valley and it's not just over everyone having their personal opinion about the novel "The Winemakers," which is supposedly based on the Mondavi family's special magic and magnetism.

There is something "in the air" that indicates a new era is commencing for this area and, even though many other grape growing regions are now convinced they, too, are producing marvelous wines, this Napa Valley area is worldly wise and is ever ready to pronounce: "We're still tops!"

And, that's what's so much fun and so interesting — listening to the pros who have been around for some time and the newcomers with such idealistic and almost fanatic faith in the products of the Napa Valley. Fascinating, indeed.

ONE CAN'T help noticing the hottest selling item in any winery's gift shop is a T-shirt with the winery logo. Even the posh Domaine Chandon has them for sale and I might add theirs is not only the most expensive but made of the best material. (It's sort of what you wouldn't mind wearing at a top-rate disco. The others, with one or two exceptions, more or less look like souvenirs that are good for wearing while mowing the lawn or shopping at the supermarket. In other words — they are just regular T-shirts.)

Another worthwhile collectible item is a glass or two from the wineries visited. This time I came back with over two-dozen. The glasses come in all sizes and shapes. The most elite for sale were the crested ones from Robert Mondavi Winery. Not for sale, but stylish were the ones at Beauleau. They are used for private tastings and the numbers are deeply etched. So, when I tasted seven wines, there were seven different glasses, each with a number. World-renowned pianist George Shearing, who is a friend of Beauleau president Legh Knowles, loves them because by feeling the glass he can identify them because he is blind.

Juried art show set in Sunnyvale

As part of their fourth annual Sunnyvale Arts Festival, the city will be hosting the annual juried art show, "An Art Affair." The competitive show is open to all Santa Clara County residents and artists, with a minimal fee.

Artists are limited to two entries, which must be original in nature, no copies. Categories include pottery, photography, textile arts, sculpture, oil and acrylics, graphics, drawing, pastels, watercolor and mixed media. Cash awards are presented for Best of Show, and Best of Category. Merit awards are also presented.

Entries are accepted by hand delivery only, no crated pieces. Entries will be accepted at the Creative Arts Center, 550 E. Remington in Sunnyvale, on Saturday, April 22, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and Monday, April 24, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Entries will be accepted during these times only.

For more information on the art show, or entry procedures, please contact Linda Pedroncelli at Sunnyvale Community Center, 738-5521, 550 E. Remington. Mailing address is P.O. Box 607, Sunnyvale 94088.

Young musicians honored at tea

The San Jose Music Study Club has announced the winners of its Young Artist Award Competition. The winner is Tyler Tor[illegible], pianist, and Helen Centner, vocalist, is the runner-up. These two talented young musicians were chosen from a field of 17 competing performing musicians from northern California.

The two young artists will be presented at a concert-tea on Wednesday, April 19 in the Fellowship Hall of the Church of the Valley, 400 N. Winchester Blvd., Santa Clara. The concert is at 1 p.m. with tea to follow.

Tickets for this event can be purchased at the door ($2 donation) and the proceeds will be used to provide a fully paid tuition scholarship for a junior year music major at S.J.S.U. as well as the monetary awards of $100 for the winner and $50 to the runner-up of the contest.

Auditions set for S.C. play

The Santa Clara Players announce tryouts for its final production of the season, "The Absence of a Cello," by Ira Wallach, on April 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Jamison House to the rear of the Triton Museum located at 1505 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara.

The play, directed by Frank Gray, calls for four women and three men ranging in age from twenty to eighty, each role playing a significant part in the development of the action.

The story revolves around the attempt of Andrew Pilgrim, a physicist, to obtain a job in the corporate world after a business failure and the humorous attempts to conform to the so-called "establishment" image, and the impact upon those around him.

Those interested in backstage work are also invited to attend the tryouts.

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